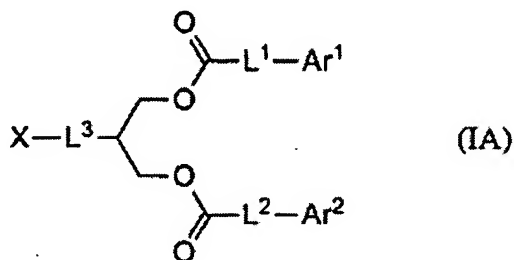


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A compound represented by the following general formula (IA) or a salt thereof:



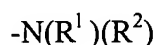
wherein Ar¹ represents a hydrogen atom or an aryl group having at least one iodine atom as a substituent; Ar² represents an aryl group having at least one iodine atom as a substituent; L¹ and L² each independently represents a divalent bridging group of which main chain contains 6 or more carbon atoms; L³ represents a single bond or a divalent bridging group of which main chain contains 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one oxygen atom; X represents a functional group containing at least one heteroatom, provided that, when L³ is a single bond, X represents a functional group other than a hydroxyl group.

2. (original): The compound or a salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein Ar² is a phenyl group having at least three iodine atoms as substituents.

3. (currently amended): The compound or a salt thereof according to claim 1 or 2, wherein Ar¹ is an aryl group having at least one iodine atom as a substituent.

4. (currently amended): The compound or a salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein Ar¹ and Ar² each independently represents a phenyl group having at least three iodine atoms as substituents.

5. (currently amended): The compound or a salt thereof according to ~~anyone of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein X is a group represented by the following general formula (IIA):



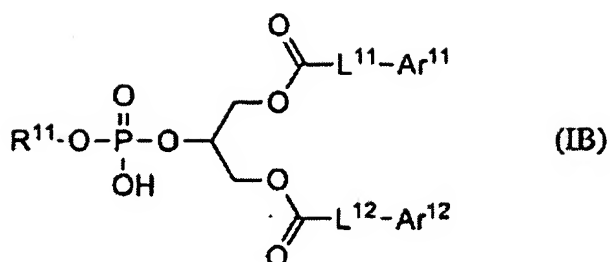
wherein R¹ and R² each independently represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms which may be substituted, or an acyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms which may be substituted, and R¹ and R² may bind to each other to form a ring, or a group represented by the following general formula (IIIA):



wherein R³ represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms which may be substituted, or an acyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms which may be substituted.

6. (currently amended): The compound or a salt thereof according to claim 5, wherein R³ is a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms and having at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of an alkoxyl group, a hydroxyl group, and an amino group.

7. (currently amended): A compound represented by the following general formula (IB) or a salt thereof:



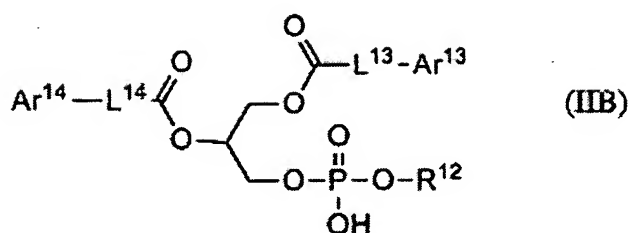
wherein Ar^{II} and Ar^{I2} each independently represents a hydrogen atom or an aryl group having at least one iodine atom as a substituent, provided that Ar^{II} and Ar^{I2} do not simultaneously represent a hydrogen atom; L^{II} and L^{I2} each independently represents a divalent bridging group of which main chain contains 6 or more carbon atoms; R^{II} represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having two or more carbon atoms and having a functional group containing at least one heteroatom as a substituent.

8. (currently amended): The compound or a salt thereof according to claim 7, wherein Ar^{II} is a phenyl group having at least three iodine atoms as substituents.

9. (currently amended): The compound or a salt thereof according to claim 7, wherein Ar^{II} and Ar^{I2} each independently represents an aryl group having at least one iodine atom as a substituent.

10. (currently amended): The compound or a salt thereof according to claim 7, wherein Ar^{II} and Ar^{I2} each independently represents a phenyl group having at least three iodine atoms as substituents.

11. (currently amended): A compound represented by the following general formula (IIB) or a salt thereof:



wherein Ar¹³ and Ar¹⁴ each independently represents a hydrogen atom or an aryl group having at least one iodine atom as a substituent, provided that Ar¹³ and Ar¹⁴ do not simultaneously represent a hydrogen atom; L¹³ and L¹⁴ each independently represents a divalent bridging group of which main chain contains 6 or more carbon atoms; R¹² represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having two or more carbon atoms and having a functional group containing at least one heteroatom as a substituent.

12. (original): The compound or a salt thereof according to claim 11, wherein at least one of Ar¹³ and Ar¹⁴ represents a phenyl group having at least three iodine atoms as substituents.

13. (currently amended): The compound or a salt thereof according to claim 11, wherein Ar¹³ and Ar¹⁴ each independently represents a aryl group having at least one iodine atom as a substituent.

14. (currently amended): The compound or a salt thereof according to claim 11, wherein Ar¹³ and Ar¹⁴ each independently represents a phenyl group having at least three iodine atoms as substituents.

15. (currently amended): A liposome containing the compound or a salt thereof according to ~~anyone of claims 1 to 14~~ claim 1 as a membrane component.

16. (original): The liposome according to claim 15, which contains a phosphatidylcholine and a phosphatidylserine as membrane components.

17. (currently amended): A contrast medium for X-ray radiography, which comprises the liposome according to claim 15 ~~or 16~~.

18. (original): The contrast medium for X-ray radiography according to claim 17, which is used for radiography of a vascular disease.

19. (original): The contrast medium for X-ray radiography according to claim 17, which is used for radiography of vascular smooth muscle cells which are abnormally proliferated under an influence of foam macrophages.

20. (original): The contrast medium for X-ray radiography according to claim 17, which is used for radiography of a tissue or a lesion where macrophages localize.

21. (original): The contrast medium for X-ray radiography according to claim 20, wherein the tissue where macrophages localize is selected from the group consisting of liver, spleen, air vesicle, lymph node, lymph vessel, and renal epithelium.

22. (original): The contrast medium for X-ray radiography according to claim 20, wherein the lesion where macrophages localize is selected from the group consisting of lesions of tumor, inflammation, and infection.

23. (currently amended): A liposome containing the compound or a salt thereof according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 14~~ claim 1 as a membrane component, wherein at least one of the iodine atoms is a radioisotope.

24. (original): A contrast medium for scintigraphy, which comprises the liposome according to claim 23.

25. (original): The contrast medium for scintigraphy according to claim 24, which is used for scintigraphy of vascular smooth muscle cells which are abnormally proliferated under an influence of foam macrophages.

26. (original): The contrast medium for scintigraphy according to claim 24, which is used for scintigraphy of a tissue or lesion where macrophages localize.

27. (original): The contrast medium for scintigraphy according to claim 24, wherein the objective tissue of scintigraphy is selected from the group consisting of blood vessel, liver, spleen, air vesicle, lymph node, lymph vessel, and renal epithelium.

28. (original): The contrast medium for scintigraphy according to claim 24, which is used for scintigraphy of a lesion selected from the group consisting of lesions of tumor, arteriosclerosis, inflammation, and infection.

29. (new): A liposome containing the compound or a salt thereof according to claim 7 as a membrane component.

30. (new): A liposome containing the compound or a salt thereof according to claim 11 as a membrane component.

31. (new): A liposome containing the compound or a salt thereof according to claim 7 as a membrane component, wherein at least one of the iodine atoms is a radioisotope.

32. (new): A liposome containing the compound or a salt thereof according to claim 11 as a membrane component, wherein at least one of the iodine atoms is a radioisotope.